

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-10 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 RSR-01 NIC-01 NEA-10 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8443

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ROME 3261

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IT, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF US SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN FAR RIGHT

1. APRIL 26 ISSUE OF SENSATIONAL WEEKLY NEWS JOURNAL QUOTE PANOR-
AMA UNQUOTE CARRIED SCURRILOUS COVER STORY ENTITLED QUOTE THE
FASCIST POISON UNQUOTE LINKING THE RIGHT- WING MSI, THE CIA, AND
FSO PETER BRIDGES (ASSIGNED ROME 1966 TO 1971) IN PLOT ALLEGED
TO INCLUDE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA (MILAN) BANK BOMBING WHICH TOOK
16 LIVES AND INJURED 88 OTHERS. STORY ALLEGES PLOT AND BOMBING
INTENDED TO SPARK SWING TO RIGHT IN PUBLIC OPINION TO PERMIT
RIGHT- WING " CHANGE OF COURSE." CHANNELS OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT MSI
IN GENERAL, AND THEREFORE CONSPIRACY ALSO, WERE NAMED AS ROME
OFFICES OF FEED GRAINS COUNCIL, MERRILL LYNCH, AND CONTINENTAL
ILLINOIS BANK OF CHICAGO (LINKED IN STORY TO MICHELE SINDONA).
ARTICLE IS BEING TRANSLATED AND WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDEES ASAP.

2. FEED GRAINS COUNCIL HAS INFORMED US THEY CONSIDERING LEGAL
ACTION AND HAVE ASKED ADVICE. EMBASSY IS RESPONDING WITH ADVICE
NOT TO DIGNIFY AND ENCOURAGE REPLAY OF ARTICLE BY ANY VOLUNTEERED
REBUTTAL OR LEGAL ACTION, BUT TO CATEGORICALLY AND EMPHATICALLY
DENY STORY (UNDERSCORE) IF ASKED (END UNDERSCORE). FCC WILL BE
TOLD EMBASSY WILL SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY BUT IF ASKED WILL REPLY TO
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ANY PRESS QUERY WITH STATEMENT THAT STORY IS QUOTE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND NOT WORTHY OF REPLY UNQUOTE. TO QUESTIONS BY OTHERS THAN PRESS, EMBOFFS WILL LABEL ARTICLE AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE.

3. EMBASSY WILL ALSO CONTACT MERRILL LYNCH AND CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS BANK REPS TO INFORM THEM, WITHOUT ADVISING, OF COURSE OF ACTION EMBASSY INTENDS TO TAKE, STRESSING THAT WE WILL NOT RESPOND AT ALL UNLESS ASKED.

4. EMBASSY (DCM) WILL CALL ATTENTION OF PRIMIN'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR (CAGIATI) TO ARTICLE EXPRESSING OUR PARTICULAR UNHAPPINESS AT IRRESPONSIBILITY SHOWN IN NAMING DIPLOMATIC OFFICER, PRESENTLY SERVING IN COMMUNIST POLICE STATE, IN OUTRAGEOUS FABRICATION OF THIS SORT. AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, WE WILL CALL ATTENTION OF FONMINISTRY TO ARTICLE, NOTING THAT IT UNWORTHY OF PUBLIC REBUTTAL, BUT THAT OUR UNHAPPINESS BEING SIGNALLED TO OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER.

5. EMBASSY OF COURSE AWARE THAT PUBLICATION OF STORY NOT A MATTER FOR DIRECT AND OFFICIAL GOI INTERVENTION. OUR ANNOYANCE WILL FIND SYMPATHETIC EAR IN PRIMIN'S OFFICE, HOWEVER, AND IT NOT UNLIKELY THAT DISPLEASURE WILL REACH MONDADORI (PANORAMA PUBLISHER) IN APPROPRIATE AND INDIRECT WAY. VOLPE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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